



## ***Renfrewshire Council***

***Councillor Celia Lawson  
Provost of Renfrewshire***

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Date: 7 June 2007

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the SS Oxley built on the Black Cart, Paisley and launched on 21 July 1927. I am delighted as the Provost (Mayor) of Renfrewshire to send you greetings and best wishes from the Councillors and citizens of Renfrewshire.

For your information Paisley is the largest town within Renfrewshire with a population of approximately 75,000. As you are no doubt aware when the John Oxley was built shipbuilding played a tremendous part in the lives of local people and was one of the main industries, but sadly this has declined over the years and the Rivers Cart and Clyde are almost without this wonderful industry which has given us so much history. Perhaps the shipbuilding on the Cart, although not as specialised as the larger ships built on the Clyde, was as equally important to those men who worked their trade to build ships such as the SS Oxley. In fact I am positive that many went on to build the ocean going liners that we were and still are all so proud of.

I have looked at your web site and am amazed that so much work is being carried out to restore her to her original beauty and you must be very proud of your achievements so far. I find it amazing that part of our history is with you in Australia and look forward to receiving, if possible a few photographs which I will certainly pass to the appropriate officer to ensure that the SS Oxley remains firmly on our historic records.

May I wish you and all who are working on the restoration continued success for completion of the project and once again many thanks for rescuing a treasure from our past. I wish you every success in the future and hope all enjoy the birthday party so richly deserved.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Celia Lawson  
Provost of Renfrewshire**